

Please amend claims 1, 20, and 45 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A valve apparatus for deploying in, and securing to, a tissue annulus, said valve comprising:

a uni-directional valve portion for passing fluid in one direction and obstructing fluid in an opposite direction;

a connector band located circumferentially around, and attached to, said valve portion; and

B<sup>1</sup> a plurality of barbed fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, said band, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction of blood flow and adapted to secure said valve to said tissue annulus.

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20. (Twice Amended) A connector band for providing an interface between a uni-directional valve and a tissue annulus, said band comprising:

B<sup>2</sup> a wall for location circumferentially around, and attachment to, said valve, said wall for receiving said valve;

a gasket located around an outer circumference of said wall, said gasket for sealing between said band and said tissue annulus; and

a plurality of barbed fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, said wall, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction

B2  
Cancel of blood flow and adapted to secure said band to said tissue annulus.

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45. (Twice Amended) A valve apparatus for deploying in, and securing to, a tissue annulus, said valve comprising:

a uni-directional valve portion for passing fluid in one direction and obstructing fluid in an opposite direction, said valve having a fixed outer circumference; and

B3 a plurality of barbed fingers located circumferentially around, and attached to, the outer circumference of said valve, said fingers being oriented substantially parallel to the direction of blood flow and adapted to secure said valve to said tissue annulus.

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#### REMARKS

##### Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 20, 23-25, 27, 29, 45-49, 51, and 53 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner finally rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 20, 23-25, 27, 29, 45-49, 51, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bessler et al. United States Patent No. 5,855,601 (hereinafter "Bessler").

The Examiner also finally rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 20, 23-25, 27, 29, 45-49, 51, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamaker United States Patent No. 3,574,864 (hereinafter "Hamaker").